

the PDA mode. The PDA mode may be automatically triggered when the user couples the digital camera to the PC. The user can change, edit, or process the digital images later in the PC mode.

#### [0061] 6. Voice Recording Applications

[0062] Voice recording software applications can be quickly provided in PDA mode without the long boot up time of PC mode. For such voice recording applications, an audio input device, e.g., a microphone, can be utilized by an end user to input voice data, which may then be sent to the audio subsystem 320. The voice data will pass to the IC 302 and it may be stored in system memory 206. The CPU 203 may then retrieve the voice data from system memory 206 and utilize a variety of voice coding techniques known to those skilled in the art to perform voice data compression. The final output may then be sent to a mass storage device, e.g., hard disk drive 240, of the PC or it may be sent to a flash media card of an associated voice recorder and player. The status of voice recording such as a recording time may be displayed on the LCD module 314. Again, such a voice recording application can be quickly provided in PDA mode without the long boot up time of PC mode.

#### [0063] 7. Remote Access

[0064] Remote access software applications may be programmed so that a PC in PDA mode can send important information such as urgent emails, alert messages, stock market information, etc., to a mobile terminal, e.g., a mobile phone. The information may be sent through a phone line or network cable which is connected to the PC system. This allows the user to access any important messages or information from the user's mobile phone regardless of the location of the PC. A similar concept can also be utilized to allow a mobile terminal to control the PC to access information that the user desires.

#### [0065] 8. Internet Auction Applications

[0066] There are a variety of Internet portals that provide an electronic type marketplace for buyers and sellers. One such Internet portal offers an on-line auction whereby a seller promises to sell selected merchandise to a buyer with the highest bid or offer during a specified auction time interval. For instance, one such Internet portal is offered by eBay, Inc. of San Jose, Calif. During an auction time interval, a bidder or offer or in a typical auction monitors bids to determine how their latest bid compares to other third party bids. If a third party offers a bid higher than a user's latest bid, such a user may elect to re-bid in order to have the highest bid and purchase the desired merchandise. Such a process typically requires the user to periodically check the latest bid prices during the specified auction time interval.

[0067] A PC consistent with the invention may provide a user-friendly interface to monitor such an auction process using Internet auction application software. Turning to FIG. 6, an exemplary sequence 600 for such an Internet auction software application is illustrated. In step 602, a target price is set. The target price may be manually set by a user or automatically set based on a user's bid price. In step 604, the Internet auction application monitors whether any third party bids were received on the particular item of interest. The software may continually or periodically monitor third party bids. If it periodically monitors such bids, the PC may

advantageously be in a low power mode if the PC user is not utilizing any other PC or PDA application programs.

[0068] If a third party bid was received, the software analyzes whether such third party bid is greater than the target price 608. If not, no notification is given and the system continues to monitor third party bids until the particular auction time interval has expired. If a third party bid was made that is higher than the target price set in step 602, notice is given 610 to the PC user. Such notification may take a variety of forms such as audio notification, e.g., an audio alarm, or video notification, e.g., a particular display on the PDA display screen 114. As such, a user may engage in other activities without having to continuously monitor the dynamic bidding process.

#### [0069] 9. Electronic Mail Applications

[0070] Electronic mail (e-mail) is highly prevalent in today's society. For a desktop or laptop computer user, accessing e-mail typically requires a user to boot up the desktop or laptop and view the body or text of e-mail messages one-by-one. Advantageously, a PC consistent with the invention may have e-mail application software that allows a user to access and filter recent e-mail messages even when the PC is initially in a power off or low power state.

[0071] Turning to FIG. 7A, an exemplary sequence 700 for such e-mail application software is illustrated. First, the PC may be powered down 702 such that the PC is off or in a low power state 704. A low power state may be for example global system state G1 or soft off states G2/S5 as those states are defined by the Advanced Configuration and Power Interface (ACPI) Specification, Revision 2.0a of Mar. 31, 2002, Copyright Compaq Computer Corporation, Intel Corporation, Microsoft Corporation, Phoenix Technologies Ltd., and Toshiba Corporation. The global system state G1 or sleeping state may also further contain a variety of sleeping states S1, S2, S3, S4, and S5 as are also defined in the ACPI specification.

[0072] The e-mail application software may then automatically wake up the PC 706 in PDA mode. This may be done in a variety of ways, e.g., the e-mail application software may program the internal registers of the IC 302 to wake the PC periodically after a predetermined time interval has expired so that it may periodically obtain the latest information such as e-mail messages. When the PC is woken up, it is in a power state high enough to receive e-mail messages and to possibly screen such messages as further detailed to FIG. 7B. Such a woken up state may be global system state G0 as defined by the ACPI specification or some lesser state with enough power to perform the stated tasks. The PC in such a woken up state consumes more power than the PC in its power off or low power state.

[0073] Once the PC is woken up and is operating in PDA mode, the e-mail application software checks for any e-mails messages in step 708. If no e-mails were received, the software instructs powering down of the PC again 702 into an off or low power state 704 until it is automatically woken up the next time. If at least one e-mail message is present from the applicable source, e.g., the particular e-mail server or servers, then such message or messages are received in step 710. Once an e-mail message is received, the software may then trigger the PC to notify the user in step 712. As